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CA4 ON HBL W26

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1993

MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

JANUARY 1993-

URBAN/MUNICIPAL

CA4 ON HBL W26

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1993

JANUARY 1993

Minutes

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE CITY OF HAMILTON



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GENERAL

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Report on Psychological Profiles, Referral Information and Outcomes in Secondary School and Post-Secondary School for Exceptional and Non-Exceptional Students 1

MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
1993 01 14

Present: Trustees M. Lowe (Chairman), Bishop, Mason, Mulholland, Wilson and Cunningham.

Not

Present: Trustee Patenaude.

Also

Present: Trustees Allen, Darby, Desmarais, Hicks, Hill, Johnston, Korz, Orban, Paquin, Rodgeron, Rogers and Stewart.

Officials

Present: D. Goodridge (Director of Education and Secretary)
P. Shewfelt (Superintendent of Finance and Treasurer)
E. Bond (Superintendent of Program)
F. Cooke (Assistant Superintendent of Program)
S. Rogers (Assistant to the Secretary)

Mrs. Lowe called the meeting to order and noted regrets were received from Trustee Patenaude. She then called for confirmation of the minutes.

Moved by Miss Cunningham:

That the minutes of the regular meeting of 1992 12 03 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

G E N E R A L

NEW BUSINESS:

Report on Psychological
Profiles, Referral
Information and Outcomes
in Secondary School and
Post-Secondary School
for Exceptional and Non-
Exceptional Students

Miss Bond gave an overview of the Report, noting the amount of information gathered and summarized through the efforts of staff led by Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, Chief Psychologist. She then called on Dr. Bountrogianni who discussed the details of the document.

In reviewing the Report, Dr. Bountrogianni emphasized that some areas of the Report overlapped with the findings and recommendations of the Board-approved Special Education Action Team Report.

The Chairman and several trustees congratulated Dr. Bountrogianni and the staff involved with the preparation of this excellent Report.

In response to Ms. Wilson's question, Dr. Bountrogianni clarified that the Gifted program has specific criteria for referral while the procedures for other exceptionalities are patterned after the Ontario guidelines. She confirmed there are measures in place to maintain consistency and accountability across the system in this area.

Dr. Bountrogianni, in addressing Ms. Wilson's concerns about the lengthy Identification, Placement and Review process (IP&RC), noted the efforts of the Diagnostic and Resource Team (D.A.R.T.) in facilitating the process.

It was clarified for Ms. Wilson that the Program Department will develop a process for the revision of the referral form.

Dr. Bountrogianni agreed that teachers, principals and Special Education representatives should have input on this.

When Ms. Wilson queried the impact of integrating behaviour exceptional students in the regular program, Dr. Bountrogianni advised that Psychological Services has yet to complete an in-depth and objective analysis. However, the assumption is that these students will have the necessary support.

Responding to a further question from Ms. Wilson, Dr. Bountrogianni affirmed that the findings of the Report will be communicated throughout the system. She added that the Program Management Committee is actively involved in the process.

Moved by Ms. Wilson:

That the Report on Psychological Profiles, Referral Information and Outcomes in Secondary and Post-Secondary School for Exceptional and Non-Exceptional Students be received for information.

Ms. Cynthia Wilkinson, Gifted Consultant - Psychological Services, clarified for Mrs. Hill that "Bright" students include those whose test results are not considered "high enough" to meet the requirements of the Gifted program. She noted the specific guidelines and tests used in assessing potential gifted students.

Mrs. Hill felt the Report has major Program implications which need to be addressed, noting the dropout rate as a key issue.

Ms. Orban perceived a correlation between programming for elementary and secondary panels, stressing its impact particularly on the dropout rate. She added that new initiatives in education e.g. benchmarks project, transition years and destreaming may be key factors in considering the findings of the Report.

Dr. Bountrogianni felt it may be premature at this time to determine the effect of the proposed destreaming on the findings of the Report given the limited size of the samples used.

Mrs. Bishop alluded to "freedom of distractibility" in the classroom particularly for those students in Compensatory schools and noted the absence of recommendations to address this concern.

Dr. Bountrogianni clarified this is being addressed on an individual basis, e.g. providing students with headphones, cubicles, etc. Mr. Joe Trovato, Behaviour Consultant Training Services - Psychological Services, remarked that characteristics identified as resulting from distractions are

usually observed in combination and may or may not lead to an exceptionality.

Mrs. Bishop suggested exploring other methods of minimizing these distractions in the classrooms.

Mrs. Bishop underscored the importance of specific student information to facilitate the assessment and identification process for exceptionality. She suggested refining the Student Information System (S.I.S.) to accommodate all pertinent information in order to provide immediate "clues" for the classroom teacher.

Miss Bond affirmed that steps are being taken towards this direction.

Responding to Mrs. Bishop's question, Miss Bond advised that the problems around Behaviour Exceptional students are being addressed through collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, outside agencies and the initiatives currently taking place in Area 3.

Mrs. Bishop felt outside expertise may not be the solution to the problem at this time and suggested the Board initiate plans involving specific services and alternative programming for these students.

Dr. Bountrogianni recalled the issue of Behaviour Management was addressed in the Special Education Action Team Report and that input from trustees, staff and persons from within and outside the system were solicited at that time. She advised that the implementation of the findings are now being discussed and efforts exerted, within existing resources, to solve the identified problems.

Mrs. Bishop expressed interest with the Retirement Survey (Recommendation 6) and suggested this be made available to the trustees. Mr. Goodridge agreed to provide the information. (Note: Copies of the document placed in Trustees' lockers on 1993 01 26.)

Mrs. Bishop, noting the significance of the findings of the Report, felt the recommendations should be approved tonight and not just received for information. She suggested as a friendly amendment "That the Report be received for information and the recommendations be approved".

Ms. Wilson agreed to incorporate Mrs. Bishop's suggestion in her motion.

In terms of procedure, Mr. Goodridge suggested it may be more appropriate to refer the Summary of Recommendations to the Superintendent of Program for implementation with a Report to this Committee within a timeline to be determined. He considered this direction would properly address the members' concerns, particularly those relating to the process and accountability in implementing the recommended course of action.

The members agreed with Mr. Goodridge's suggestion and the motion as follows was voted on and CARRIED:

That the following Summary of Recommendations in the Report on Psychological Profiles, Referral Information and Outcomes in Secondary School and Post-Secondary School for Exceptional and Non-Exceptional Students be referred to the Superintendent of Program for implementation with a report back to the Development Committee in January, 1994:

1. That the Student Services Referral Form be revised to reflect objective information gathering.

2. That the analysis for referral characteristics be redone for the 1990-1992 school years to evaluate the use and impact of pre-referral assistance.

3. That the findings of the analyses of the Compensatory Education students' profiles be presented to the principals of the Compensatory Education schools.

4. That a short form of the Achenbach Teacher Checklist be developed.

5. That the rate of suspensions and attendance patterns of Behaviour Exceptional students be compared to the rates for other exceptionalities.

6. That the existing Retirement Survey (regarding why students leave school) be modified to include all exceptionalities by placement.

7. That the system continue to provide on-going support and monitoring in both the junior and intermediate divisions to encourage students to stay in school

Mrs. Mason asked trustees to keep in mind that statistics show clearly behavioural students do far better in self-contained classrooms.

Dr. Bountrogianni assured Mrs. Mason that the student's best interest remains a top priority in the process and we are doing the best we can with the knowledge we have.

At this point, Miss Cunningham echoed the members' appreciation for the excellent Report and thanked all staff involved for their joint efforts. She applauded those who serve education so well and regretted that more parents were not present to hear what is being done.

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

CHAIRMAN

URBAN/MUNICIPAL

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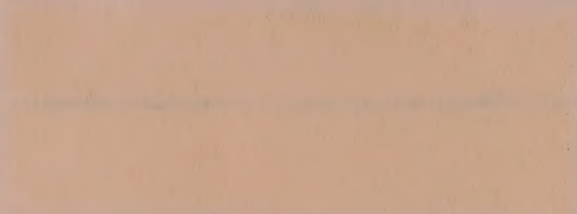
FEBRUARY 1993

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COMMITTEE**

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MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1993 02 11

Present: Trustees M. Lowe (Chairman), Bishop, Mulholland, Patenaude, Wilson and Cunningham.

Not

Present: Trustee Mason.

Also

Present: Trustees Allen, Hill, Johnston, Orban, Rodgeron and Rogers.

Officials

Present: D. Goodridge (Director of Education and Secretary)

E. Bond (Superintendent of Program)

F. Cooke (Assistant Superintendent of Program)

S. Rogers (Assistant to the Secretary)

Mrs. Lowe called the meeting to order and asked for confirmation of the minutes.

Referring to the second to the last paragraph on Page 3, Ms. Wilson requested the minutes be amended to reflect that she did not agree to incorporate in her motion Mrs. Bishop's suggestion of receiving the Report (Psychological Profiles, Referral Information and Outcome in Secondary School and Post-Secondary School for Exceptional and Non-Exceptional Students) for information "and the recommendations be approved".

Moved by Miss Cunningham:

That the minutes of the regular meeting of 1993 01 14 be approved as amended.

Carried

G E N E R A L

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

Report regarding
Provincial Mathematics
Benchmarks Validation
Response

Miss Bond introduced the Report and then called on Mr. George Knill, Mathematics Co-ordinator, who discussed the process undertaken in developing the response document.

In reply to Mr. Mulholland's query, Mr. Knill affirmed that the Board is prepared to meet the challenge posed by the new Minister of Education and Training with regards to Mathematics testing, adding that the Board's aim is to be competitive.

Mrs. Hill perceived some inconsistencies with the responses relating to the extent of agreement (e.g. strongly disagree, disagree, agree, strongly agree) to the statements in the document and the comments given to support these.

Miss Bond noted that the comments incorporate a "qualifier".

When Miss Cunningham expressed concerns on how the Ministry will look at the response document, Miss Bond clarified that the information will be combined with data provided by other respondents which the Ministry will utilize in setting a general framework for Mathematics Benchmarks. Based on the responses gathered by the Hamilton Board, Miss Bond noted a key point of disagreement with the Ministry's document is that these benchmarks are not broad and challenging enough for the students.

Mr. Knill said our curriculum is perceived by the respondents to be much better. He expressed hope the Ministry will provide stronger benchmarks as the Board is not intending to move towards "lowering" its standards.

Miss Cunningham suggested promoting public awareness of the high standard the Board is striving to achieve for the students. She stressed the importance of the "parents knowing exactly where their children should be".

Ms. Orban felt the concerns identified in the Benchmarks' document should be brought to the Ministry's immediate attention.

Noting the Ministry document to be in draft form, Miss Bond clarified that these concerns along with the proposed changes would be communicated to the Ministry through this validation process.

Mr. Knill explained for Ms. Wilson the process involved in considering the various responses to the Benchmarks' document at the Ministry level. He then pointed to the additional back-up information which would be part of the Board's submission.

When concerns surfaced with submitting the response document prior to the Board meeting, the members agreed to forward it on Friday, 1992 02 19, after receiving approval by the Board.

Moved by Miss Cunningham:

That the Provincial Mathematics Benchmarks Validation response document be approved and forwarded to the Ministry of Education and Training. CARRIED

Noting the responses from various community groups, Mr. Goodridge suggested it appropriate for the Board, through the Superintendent of Program, to express appreciation for the time and efforts contributed by these people in assisting the Board in the development of the response document.

Moved by Ms. Orban:

That appreciation letters be sent from the Superintendent of Program to all community groups for their time and efforts in assisting the Board in the development of this response document. CARRIED

The members agreed with Mrs. Rodgers's suggestion of including a copy of the minutes of tonight's discussion with this correspondence.

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

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APRIL, 1993

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MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1993 04 06

Present: Trustees M. Lowe (Chairman), Bishop, Mason, Mulholland, Wilson and Cunningham.

Not

Present: Ms. Patenaude

Also

Present: Trustees Allen, Hill, Johnston, Korz, Orban, Rodgerson and Stewart.

Officials

Present: D. Goodridge, Director of Education and Secretary
P. Shewfelt, Superintendent of Finance and Treasurer
F. Cooke, Assistant Superintendent - Program
S. Rogers, Assistant to the Secretary.

Mrs. Lowe called the meeting to order, noting regrets for not attending were received from Ms. Patenaude.

Moved by Miss Cunningham:

That the minutes of the 1993 02 11 meeting be approved.

CARRIED.

GENERAL

NEW BUSINESS:

Secondary School Religious Education Credit Courses - Information (requested by Trustee Korz)

Mr. Korz cited a recent court case which allows only Catholic and private schools to deliver credit doctrinal religious courses rather than education about religion. It was his intent to determine if there is public interest in the provision of such credit courses by the public board.

Moved by Mr. Korz:

That the executive bodies of the various denominational and religious groups in the City of Hamilton be contacted to determine the interest in the provision of doctrinal credit courses in religious education at the secondary level and the appropriate information be forwarded to them about this issue.

Dr. Johnston quoted from the Ministry's Policies and Program Requirements, 1992 - "Policy/Program Memorandum No. 112", which states that public elementary and secondary schools in Ontario may educate about religion, but not include indoctrination. He considered Mr. Korz' motion to be out of order and the proposal to be contrary to the laws of Ontario based on a Supreme Court decision reached during the Elgin Case.

Mr. Korz clarified that his motion was to determine if there is a public desire to request the Ministry to change their policy. He was not suggesting a new program.

Moved in amendment by Dr. Johnston:

That the motion regarding doctrinal credit courses be referred to the Committee to Study Religious Education in Schools.

Dr. Johnston suggested the amendment be approved if people felt the request had merit.

Ms. Orban urged members to be very careful about requesting such a change by the Ministry. In view of the Grade 12 global religious education course offered by the Board, she would not support the motion.

Mr. Korz responded to queries by Trustees Allen and Mason, before further clarifying that his intent is to approach the approximately 12 to 20 community co-ordinating bodies by letter about this possibility and, if there is obvious support, approach the Ministry.

Believing religion to be a private matter and noting the many magnificent churches within the community, Miss Cunningham maintained that people wishing to acquire knowledge about their religious faiths, have every opportunity to do so. Based on the information cited by Dr. Johnston, she considered the proposal to be against the law and would neither support the motion nor the referral.

In supporting Miss Cunningham's observation, Dr. Johnston stated the Board's mandate is to provide historical knowledge about religion throughout the ages, which is quite different from indoctrination.

The motion to refer was put to a vote and LOST.

Mr. Korz maintained that people of many different denominations are being denied the opportunity to obtain a religious credit unless they attend a separate or private school. Given the cultural diversity within the community, he felt it was the Board's duty to assess whether there is such a demand upon which the Province could be requested to act.

The motion was put to a vote and LOST.

Survey to Address the Needs of Potential Dropouts - requested by Trustee Orban

Referring to the Retention Committee report brought to this Board in November, 1991 Ms. Orban observed that, at present, Mr. Lepp (Guidance Co-ordinator) is developing an implementation plan for presentation this Fall. She believed that report addressed prevention rather than remediation. Citing the annual decline in student numbers throughout the two semesters, Ms. Orban also quoted composite and vocational statistics from a report compiled by the Research Department "Secondary Student Retirements, October, 1990 - September, 1991". Alarmed by the lack of credit accumulation and the drop out rate, it was

Moved by Ms. Orban:

That this Board conduct a survey with an instrument approved by this Board to meet the needs of the "at risk" potential drop-out student using the following suggested criteria for student selection:

- i) poor attendance patterns
- ii) credit acquisition below expectation

Mr. Goodridge assured Ms. Orban that the drop out issue is not solely the problem of the public system, while Mrs. Lowe urged more discretion with some of the statements being made.

Recalling other reports (such as the Westmount Report) also indicated some schools have major drop out problems, and in order to avoid unnecessary duplication, Mrs. Bishop requested that this issue be tabled until the Board receives the report of the Retention Committee due this Fall.

Moved by Mrs. Bishop:

That the motion be tabled until the Fall pending receipt of the Report of the Retention Committee.

While she did not believe that report would address her particular concerns, Ms. Orban indicated she would be willing to wait for the presentation of that report.

The motion was put to a vote and CARRIED.

May Meeting Date

It was agreed:

That the May meeting of the Development Committee be rescheduled to 1993 05 13, following the Personnel & Organization Committee meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

.....
Chairman

cv

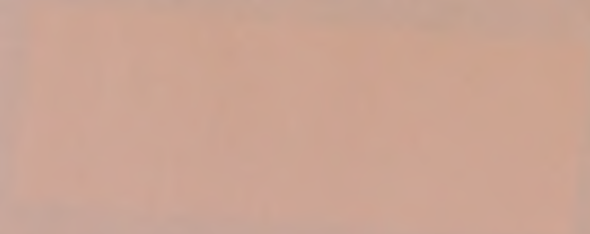
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MAY 1993

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THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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TO THE HONORABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FROM THE HONORABLE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

RE: THE LANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
1993 05 13

Present: Trustees H. Wilson (Chairman Pro Tem), Bishop, Mason, Mulholland and Cunningham.

Not

Present: Trustees Lowe and Patenaude.

Also

Present: Trustees Allen, Darby, Desmarais, Hicks, Hill, Johnston, Korz, Paquin and Stewart.

Officials

Present: D. Goodridge (Director of Education and Secretary)
B. Sinclair (Superintendent of Human Resources)
P. Shewfelt (Superintendent of Finance and Treasurer)
E. Bond (Superintendent of Program)
R. Binns (Superintendent of Schools - Area 3)
P. Gillie (Superintendent of Schools - Area 4)
F. Cooke (Assistant Superintendent of Program)

Mr. Goodridge called the meeting to order. Advising the members that Trustee Lowe could not be present at tonight's meeting, he asked for nominations for Chairman Pro Tem.

Moved by Miss Cunningham:

That Ms. Wilson be appointed Chairman Pro Tem.

CARRIED

Ms. Wilson assumed the Chair, noted regrets were received from Trustees Lowe, Patenaude, Rodgerson and Rogers and then called for confirmation of the minutes.

Moved by Mrs. Bishop:

That the minutes of the regular meeting of 1993 04 06 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

G E N E R A L

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:

(a) Report regarding
Environmental Education
in the Classroom

In discussing the format of the presentation, Ms. Gillie noted the series of short presentations about environmental programs and the time provided this evening for the members to view the displays in the foyer relating to environmental activities in our classrooms.

Mr. Jeff Nichol, Consultant - Environmental/Outdoor Education spoke on the highlights of the presentations: (a) Society, Environment and Energy Development Studies (SEEDS) program, in which many Hamilton schools are actively involved and have been receiving awards, (b) the completion of the Enviro House (on display in the First Floor lobby) and (c) "Greening Your School" project, a presentation by representatives from the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority scheduled this evening.

At this point in the meeting, Miss Cunningham, on behalf of the Board, presented award certificates to the

following schools and organizations for their contributions and active involvement with environmental activities/projects in the schools:

a) Scott Park Secondary School, a Green Banner School through the SEEDS Program. The certificate was received by Margarita Johnson and Lora Kaduk - student representatives.

b) Lisgar Elementary School, for Environment Awareness Award. The certificate was received by Meghan Lederman, Lisa Young and Brett Lintott - student representatives.

c) Eva Riis-Culver, President - Hamilton Council of Home and School Associations and Beatrice McDonough were recognized for their work on and contribution to the Junior League of Hamilton-Burlington Sponsorship of Environmental House.

**(b) Presentation - Hamilton
Region Conservation
Authority re "Greening
Your School"**

Mr. Nichol explained that "Greening Your School" is an environmental project which has been receiving strong support in Hamilton. He then introduced Mesdames Joan Bell, Director - Community Relations (Hamilton Region Conservation Authority) and Ms. Marion Riddle - Consultant (Is Five Foundation).

Ms. Bell provided the highlights of the "Greening Your School" program, a joint project sponsored by the Ministries of Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, and noted the active involvement of this Board with the project.

Ms. Riddle gave a slide presentation on the various environmental activities at Lincoln Alexander Elementary School, where the development of "Greening Your School" document took place last year.

It was agreed:

That the Presentation from the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority regarding "Greening Your School" be received for information.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman called a 20-minute recess to provide the members the opportunity to view the displays in the foyer and first floor area.

When the Committee re-convened, Ms. Gillie and Mr. Nichol expressed appreciation to the members for the opportunity to share with them a portion of the various environmental activities happening in the classrooms. Ms. Gillie thanked the presentors, staff and students for their time and efforts in the project. In closing, she requested the members receive the preceding Report and presentations as a supplement to the Annual Environmental Policy Report.

Moved by Mr. Mulholland:

That the Report and Presentations regarding Environmental Education in the Classroom be received for information.

Trustees Bishop and Wilson noted with pride the efforts and enthusiasm of the students in this undertaking.

Dr. Johnston lauded the excellent environmental programs in the schools and expressed appreciation to the teachers and staff for their leadership.

The motion was voted on and was CARRIED.

On behalf of the Development Committee, Ms. Wilson thanked all those involved with this worthwhile exercise.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Tri-Board Family Violence Prevention Project Update

Miss Bond gave an overview of the Report then introduced the presentors: B. Schofield, Co-ordinator - Adjustment Services; K. Hibbins, Co-ordinator - Family Studies; J. Fisher, Community Child Abuse Council and Dr. D. Mitchell, Curriculum Design and Development - Community Child Abuse Council.

Ms. Fisher provided an historical background of the Hamilton-Wentworth Community Child Abuse Council, noting the structure of the Council and the composition of the Hamilton Board's Violence Prevention Education Steering Committee.

Ms. Hibbins detailed the mechanics of the Family Violence Prevention Project, highlighting the Cross-disciplinary Planning process, and briefly addressed the implications of the program on the Early/Formative Years, Transition Years and the Specialization Years.

Dr. Mitchell discussed the significant learning from the program, for students and teachers, and the evaluation process undertaken on the results of the Family Violence Prevention pilot projects in 7 schools.

In concluding the presentation, Mr. Schofield updated the members on the Hamilton Board's initiatives for 1992-93 relative to Family Violence Prevention.

Mrs. Bishop considered the program an exciting and worthwhile project which the Board should take pride in pursuing. Acknowledging the amount of work to date, she called for increasing community awareness of the various activities involved in the program.

Echoing Mrs. Bishop's remarks, Miss Cunningham commented that more young people are willing to come forward and relay problems within their families. She commended all those involved in the project for their efforts in making this happen.

Mr. Allen expressed concerns with the TV viewing pattern among children today and their heavy exposure to media violence.

Dr. Mitchell advised that the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario (FWTAO) is currently conducting programs on violence in various communities. One of these programs, geared towards elementary school children, endeavours to impart sound judgement and strategies for these children in their TV viewing, particularly when violence occurs on the screen. (Dr. Mitchell affirmed the local branch of FWTAO is organizing a workshop on media violence; the date will be announced later.)

Moved by Miss Cunningham:

That the Report on the Annual Tri-Board Family Violence Prevention Project Update be received for information. **CARRIED**

Report re Organization
"Athletes Helping Athletes"

Miss Bond explained the program's concept, noting Scott Park and Barton Secondary Schools are among the six local secondary schools involved in the pilot project.

Moved by Mrs. Hill:

That the following recommendations in the Report regarding the Organization "Athletes Helping Athletes" be approved:

(a) That the Report be received for information.

(b) That an update be presented in May 1994.

The motion was voted on and was **CARRIED**.

Report of the Committee
to Study Religious Education
in Schools

Dr. Johnston presented the Report.

Dr. Johnston expressed disappointment with the long overdue release of the two Ministry documents (Opening or Closing Exercises and Education About Religion in Ontario Public Elementary Schools) in their final format. Noting the development of these documents dated back to 1991-92 and that his follow-up inquiry indicated the French translation is holding up publication, Dr. Johnston felt the Board should urge the Ministry to facilitate the immediate release of these documents.

Moved by Dr. Johnston:

That the Report of the Committee to Study Religious Education in Schools be approved and that the Board urge the Minister of Education and Training to authorize the immediate publication and distribution of the following documents:

- (a) Opening or Closing Exercises
- (b) Education About Religion in Ontario Public Elementary Schools

The Chairman ruled the motion out of order as it was amending the Report of the Committee.

To accommodate Dr. Johnston's request, the members agreed to vote on the Report first and allow him to make another motion about the Board's petition to the Ministry for the immediate release of the above-named documents.

Moved by Dr. Johnston:

That the following Report of the Committee to Study Religious Education in Schools be approved:

(a) That the following draft documents from the Ministry of Education and Training be received for information:

- (i) Opening or Closing Exercises
- (ii) Education About Religion in Ontario Public Elementary Schools

(b) That the letter from Wilfrid Laurier University regarding courses on religious education be received for information.

(c) That the Hamilton Board of Education send a letter of appreciation to The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara for their concern with Education about Religion in public schools and express the Board's support, in principle, for the Church's resolution regarding Multi-Faith Education About Religion programs.

CARRIED

Moved by Dr. Johnston:

That the Board urge the Minister of Education and Training to authorize the immediate publication and distribution of the following documents:

- (a) Opening or Closing Exercises
- (b) Education About Religion in Ontario Public Elementary Schools

Dr. Johnston expressed anticipation that this course of action would encourage the Ministry to release these documents immediately.

The motion was put to a vote and was CARRIED.

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

CHAIRMAN

JUNE 1993

URBAN/MUNICIPAL
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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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COMMISSION

ON THE

STATE OF

THE NATION

IN THE YEAR 1881

MINUTES OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1993 06 03

Present: Trustees M. Lowe (Chairman), Bishop, Mason, Mulholland, Patenaude, Wilson and Cunningham.

Also

Present: Trustees Darby, Desmarais, Hicks, Hill, Johnston, Korz, Orban, Rodgeron, Rogers and Stewart.

Officials

Present: D. Goodridge (Director of Education and Secretary)
B. Sinclair (Superintendent of Human Resources)
E. Bond (Superintendent of Program)
R. Binns (Superintendent of Schools - Area 3)
F. Cooke (Assistant Superintendent of Program)
S. Rogers (Assistant to the Secretary)

Mrs. Lowe called the meeting to order.

G E N E R A L

NEW BUSINESS:

Report regarding
Race Relations and
Ethnocultural Equity
Policy

Mrs. Irene Sushko, Affirmative Action/Employment Equity Coordinator, presented the Report.

In expressing his appreciation for the Report, Dr. Johnston acknowledged Mrs. Sushko's efforts and the accomplishments she has achieved within a short period of time and limited resources. He was supportive of exploring various funding sources outside the system for some aspects of the program.

Responding to Mrs. Hill's query, Mrs. Sushko agreed to provide a breakdown of the survey responses from the Elementary and Secondary schools.

Mrs. Hill expressed her concerns about reconvening the previous Race Relations Steering Committee in light of 13 future directions already identified. She indicated her intent to make an amendment to this particular recommendation in the Report at an appropriate time.

Mrs. Sushko acknowledged the work of the Steering Committee in the development of the Policy and, as a courtesy, felt it appropriate to apprise them of the progress and share the results of the survey.

Mrs. Hill suggested that the proposed newsletter should be distributed to the community as well as the system.

In reply to Mr. Korz, Mrs. Sushko advised that the Board is presently determining the details of the Ministry of Citizenship's "Change Your Future" program funding, noting a meeting will be convened tomorrow morning to discuss this.

Mr. Korz called for caution in considering program funding which entails "no cost to the Board", emphasizing that it is still at taxpayer's expense.

Mr. Korz commented that when the grant application comes back to the trustees for approval he will ask what would be done differently for students who are not members of minority groups.

Dr. Cooke responded to Mr. Korz' question that non-visible minority groups are overly represented in much of the existing curriculum.

In expounding on the Black History Month event and its relevance to the curriculum, Dr. Cooke advised of similar activities involving people from Africa, the Far East, etc.

Mr. Korz offered his belief that the emphasis on race in our curriculum and in our schools serves to make the problem worse and that such belief underlies his serious doubts about this kind of program.

Mrs. Bishop spoke in support of the Report. In reference to the survey results on Page 6, she suggested it would be helpful to know what aspects of the policy implementation progress some of the respondents found unsatisfactory.

Ms. Orban, urging the continuance of an unbiased discipline policy in the schools, suggested that the "Incident Tracking Form" under Future Directions could heighten awareness of anti-racism when such may not be present.

Mrs. Sushko agreed that the school's discipline code should focus on fairness, justice and equal treatment for all students; however, question 4 (a) in the survey was in response to one on the aspects of concerns arising out of the implementation process.

Responding to questions on the Incident Tracking Form, Mrs. Sushko noted that this direction was considered as she became aware of occurrences in the schools through people in the community. She added that the form is not intended to be a "report card" of a school's operations; rather, it will assist in identifying areas where in-service is needed.

Mrs. Sushko, responding to questions as to her direction once the Report is "received for information", indicated she would like to develop some of the ideas that have come from various people and the survey.

Mrs. Sushko explained that Bill 79, the second reading of which is expected early in the Fall, will mandate the Board to survey its workforce and identify the number of employees in relation to four designated groups - Aboriginal people, minority groups, people with disabilities and women.

Mrs. Rodgers referred to the statement under Future Directions, Incident Tracking Form, that a "definition of racial incidents will be provided as a guideline" and expressed concern that such a definition could be so broad as to make it unworkable.

Mrs. Sushko believed some type of guideline is needed in this respect, i.e. graffiti, name calling, etc. She reiterated that the focus in this area is to identify areas of need in order to assist in the process.

Mrs. Mason spoke in support of the Report and Mrs. Sushko's work and efforts in this whole area.

Mr. Korz questioned when the application for program funding would come back to the trustees for approval.

Mrs. Hill pointed out that, if the Future Directions as outlined in the Report are approved, Mrs. Sushko can proceed with the application for program funding from the Ministry of Citizenship.

Moved by Dr. Johnston:

That the Progress Report regarding the Race Relations and Ethnocultural Equity Policy be received for information and the following recommendation approved:

(a) That the Future Directions outlined in the Report be approved with the following amendment:

(i) That the previous Race Relations Steering Committee be reconvened to share the results of the Policy Implementation Progress Survey and to provide input on these Future Directions.

Mrs. Bishop was opposed to the amendment as she felt this would limit the task of the Steering Committee and requested that Clause (i) be voted on separately. She stressed the Committee's relevance particularly in maintaining the channels of communication with the visible minority groups in the community.

Mrs. Lowe offered that upon completion of the mandated tasks as noted in the amendment, the Chairman of the Steering Committee is free to come back to the trustees if it is felt that there is further work to be done.

Mrs. Mason called the question and it was Carried.

The motion, excluding Clause (i), was put to a vote and was CARRIED.

Clause (i) was put to a vote and was CARRIED.

On behalf of the Development Committee, Mrs. Lowe thanked Mrs. Sushko for her excellent presentation.

Report of the
Literacy Committee
(1993)

Miss Bond provided an overview of the Report then called on Mr. Bill Manson, Co-ordinator - English, Drama and Dance, who reviewed the details of the Report.

Referring to Clause (ii) of the Future Directions, Mrs. Hill suggested short and long-term monitoring of the Growing into Language and Writing to Read programs be done by the Program and Research Departments.

Mrs. Hill suggested that "multicultural" would be a better term than "bias-free" in the fifth bullet of Future Directions. She suggested further that benchmarks for literacy be published in order to promote public awareness on where we stand.

Mr. Korz questioned whether any consideration was given to a pilot project in one elementary school providing a traditional approach to teaching English skills, e.g. phonics and comparing this with our current methods. Miss Bond explained that the Literacy Committee did not consider this direction as part of its mandate, noting the considerable research work required for this direction.

Mr. Korz remarked that a comparative analysis of available alternatives is overdue, adding that he would like to see something along this line in the next Literacy update.

Considering the Board as being "on track" in terms of current programs in place which provide for variations in teaching methods, Miss Cunningham expressed concern with pursuing Mr. Korz' recommendation.

Mrs. Bishop cautioned the members about believing that traditional learning has always been successful, recalling some difficulties with learning styles in the past.

Trustees Bishop and Stewart expressed concerns with the definition of Literacy in the Report, suggesting this be reviewed for clarity and comprehension to facilitate getting the message across to the public.

Mr. Korz questioned whether objective measurements were established initially to support the viewpoint that the current model is successful. He expressed concern that the Board was not offering alternative models for parents, adding that he would like the officials to explore the alternatives that exist, i.e. private schools, and see how such methods compare with our system.

In response to Mrs. Rodgeron's question, Miss Bond indicated that the "whole language" concept is not a "program" nor a "package" but provides different ways in which to teach students to read according to individual abilities.

Based on personal observations during his weekly classroom visits, Mr. Goodridge affirmed the impressive achievements to date from teachers and students in the classrooms. However, in light of the trustees' concerns with the diversity in teaching methods to meet the needs of students, he encouraged the members to provide the officials with direction in this regard.

Noting the variety of teaching methods outlined in the Growing into Language Report, Miss Bond confirmed research findings indicate that there is no one way of teaching nor one way of learning.

Moved by Mrs. Hill:

That the Report of the Literacy Committee (1993) be received for information and the following recommendations approved:

(a) That the Board accept the Concept of, Belief Statements about, and Mission Statement for Literacy as contained in the Report.

(b) That the Future Directions as outlined in the Report be approved.

The motion was voted on and was CARRIED.

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

CHAIRMAN

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in 1947 the government of the United States...
the Department of the Interior...
the Bureau of Land Management...
the National Park Service...
the United States Forest Service...
the United States Fish and Wildlife Service...
the United States Geological Survey...
the United States Environmental Protection Agency...
the United States Department of Agriculture...
the United States Department of Commerce...
the United States Department of Defense...
the United States Department of Education...
the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare...
the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development...
the United States Department of Justice...
the United States Department of Labor...
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